



ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

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SOUTH AFRICA

February 2024

GENERAL UPDATES

Airports Company of South Africa to implement stricter rules for hand luggage: If passengers do not adhere to the following specifications with regards to hand luggage, airlines will be forced to charge for extra baggage. Bags may not exceed the total dimensions of 56cm x 36cm x 23cm. Weight limit per bag: 7kg

Federal Airlines, in partnership with the MORE Family Collection, is pleased to announce the introduction of a new and exciting shuttle route. Commencing from 23 March 2024, the shuttle service will be connecting Madikwe Game Reserve with Marakele National Park for the Marataba Lodges.

Due to popular demand, **Airlink** has reinstated the MQP to VNX flights for the 2024 peak season starting on 1 July 2024 until 05 January 2025. Flights are on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays/Sundays. The flight will route via Johannesburg on the short MQP-JHB (ORT) leg, and then from JHB (ORT) to VNX on either the daily 11h35 JHB-VNX departure, or on the later second flight on the Monday/Wednesday/Friday/Sunday 14h15 departure.

The Barracks is a new Apart Hotel by TPF Hospitality located in Cape Town's City Bowl. The Barracks offers studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. It has a dedicated reception and concierge desk on the lower floor, and a rooftop Wellness Centre & Pool. Ideal for families or longer stays.

Seasons in Africa Tuningi Safari Lodge will be closed between 01 May and June 2024 for a refurb. Thereafter each suite that has not been completed will be closed one at a time and renovated between July 2024 and December 2024.

Makanyj Private Game Lodge has lowered their permitted child age to 12 years and over. This will take place with immediate effect in order for any requests for this age group to be accommodated at Makanyj going forward.

Madikwe Safari Lodge has introduced a new exclusive-use 3-bedroom villa – Elela Villa – situated at Kopano Lodge.

- No children under 12 years of age.
- A private vehicle is included in the rates for the Villa.
- The Villa accommodates a maximum of six guests and a minimum of one guest.

Franschhoek's **Mont Rochelle Hotel** and all facilities therein including MIKO Restaurant, the bar and spa, will be closed from 01 – 31 July 2024 inclusive for annual winter maintenance and some facility upgrades. During this period, shared accommodation is available in the Manor House, with a limited spa menu offered from the fifth bedroom (the Bunk Room). The Country Kitchen will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner for the duration, attending to the needs of Manor House guests, whilst welcoming external guests as usual.

Savanna Private Game Reserve has announced its 2024 planned upgrades. All the following upgrades have been scheduled in and around dead nights or blocked-off dates, so will not impact operations.

- **Luxury Suites:** The flooring will be upgraded from tiles to laminate wood. The bathrooms' cabinets will be replaced with modern, lighter wood to match the bedrooms. All the plunge pools' Marbelite will also be redone.
- **Executive Suites:** The rooftops will be replaced.
- **Main Lodge:** Maintenance of the thatch roof will be done.

Rhino Sands' Camp Refurbishments Completed: Rhino Sands has just finished an expansive soft refurbishment across the entire camp. While preserving their signature classical safari style, they have introduced vibrant new colours and patterns. Enhancements to their luxury tented suites include a privacy screen between the bedroom and bathroom, revamped closet units featuring a mini bar with a fridge, and a fully equipped tea and coffee station.

Fancourt has announced that the newly renovated Spa at Fancourt is officially open! The new spa renovations have included 9 treatment rooms, two of which are couples' rooms to enjoy the new enhanced spa treatments menu. There is a steam room and cold plunge pool, the tepidarium, revamped signature Roman Baths, and a new relaxation room.

Natural Selection is excited to introduce GweGwe Beach Lodge, which is scheduled to open in March 2024. Located in the Mkambati Nature Reserve along South Africa's Wild Coast, this lodge will consist of 9 en-suite rooms (seven twin and two family).

Newmark Hotels Blaauwklippen is located just outside Stellenbosch and includes a four-bedroomed Manor House and a six-bedroomed Jonkershuis. The accommodation side is now managed by Newmark, and rooms are sold on an individual FIT basis, or the properties can be booked on an exclusive-use basis.

Cape Winelands Airport is located in the picturesque Cape Winelands region and is set to soar to new heights with an airport expansion programme currently underway. Situated 25km from Cape Town International Airport in the northern district of Durbanville, it currently serves general aviation traffic. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2027. The new airport will be a fully commercial airport welcoming domestic and international arrivals.

SPECIALS

Tswalu Kalahari – reminder of the following specials:

- Best of Tswalu in 6 Nights – Stay for 6 Pay for 5, combining the Motse and Loapi, valid until 15 Dec 2024.
- Loapi Early 2024 Exclusive Offer – Stay 4 Pay 3, valid until 31 March 2024.

Makanyj Private Game Lodge in the Timbavati has introduced a Honeymoon special for 2024. One person per couple will receive a 50% discount. T&Cs apply.

Garonga Safari Co.

- MCH Intimate Luxury Camp – Stay 4 Pay 3 Special Launch.
Available for the following select date periods:
 - The full month of April 2024
 - 1st November to 18th December 2024
 - 10th January to 28th February 2025
- NB! This offer is exclusive to MCH only.

Tanda Tula Safari Camp introduce Pay 2 Stay 3 until the end of April 2024.

- Only applicable to new bookings received.
 - Valid till end of April'24.
 - Minimum 3-night stay.
 - Maximum of 6 pax.
 - Single supplement of 50% applicable.
 - May not be combined with other special offers.
 - Only valid for travel until end of April 2024.
 - Pay/Stay special will not apply if booking is deferred or moved.
 - Rates are on a per person sharing per night basis.
 - Standard inclusions and exclusions will be applicable.
 - Rates are subject to change and Tanda Tula reserves the right to discontinue the special at any stage.
 - Please also note their Pay 3 and Stay 4 is still valid and has been extended to end of April 2024
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FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

Leanne, Alfred, Ella, Nikita and Nancy had an early present and took the opportunity to visit Wilderness Little Vumbura, Wilderness Qorokwe and Wilderness Savuti in early December.

Wilderness Little Vumbura made us feel very welcome. From the moment we disembarked from the plane we were welcomed like a family member. On our guide met us at the airstrip and drove us to camp. His knowledge is so in-depth and forthcoming that we didn't have to ask much as he had already answered our questions and educated us with information we never knew before. Bono the Camp Manager joined us at dinner on our second night and continuously checked up on us, offering a high level of personal service. He made sure we experience as much as there was on offer and listened to our interests. The camp itself is the perfect location allowing you to do all water activities directly from camp, with only a short boat trip to get to the vehicle for the game drives. The en-suite tents are spacious and offer all the luxuries you need. A plunge pool and reading area overlook the floodplains. Food is out of the world with so much choice, catering for all dietary interests. Being able to participate in land and water activities at one camp creates a great all-round experience. The surprise island sundowner stop was very special and such a treat after our boat cruise. This property will be amazing for those guests wanting a hassle-free Okavango water experience together with super game viewing. It is just such a unique little camp that all markets would really enjoy what it offers. We loved staying here. It felt as if we were visiting close friends.



Wilderness Qorokwe is a striking luxury camp, set in a prime location in the Okavango Delta. Each room is spacious and modern with the most amazing views overlooking active waterholes. As it was quite hot, we were welcomed into rooms that offer fans, a watercooler and a private pool. Our guide was very knowledgeable and engaging, and all staff at the lodge were professional and kind. The staff's attention to detail was on another level, we asked for sparkling water in our water bottle and we never had to ask for it again, each time the water bottle was filled with water we got sparkling water. One of the ladies did not use the duvet at night due to the heat and on the second night when they returned, lodge staff had removed the duvet, after having taken notice that it wasn't being used. Chitabe side of the reserve offers amazing game viewing. We saw 5 cheetahs at once, lions feeding on a buffalo, male and female lions with cubs and so much more. The lodge and area are known for the large predators. The food was a gourmet experience and presented beautifully. We had an Africa night in the boma and were offered a large variety of dishes to taste. We were really blown away by this camp and the staff, this would definitely be something we would recommend comfortably for all markets.



We loved **Wilderness Savuti** for its intimate feel and vibrant friendly staff, especially our guide and management. The location, situated on the banks of the Savuti Channel, provided a special kind of magic falling asleep to croaking frogs. The camp staff were lovely, helpful and willing with a 'can do' attitude. First night it was only us and two other guests and second night it was just us and they managed the two guests with us being a group so seamlessly, which is really a testament to their skills. Our guide was once again very knowledgeable, and this seem to be a constant across all the Wilderness properties. This is where we had the highlight of our trip the sighting of 24 African wild dogs which our guide made sure to track for us after us having said it was the last animals on our list to see. They offer both day and night drives and a boat excursion. The drive takes about 1h30 to get to the dock, but offers an amazing opportunity for game viewing. At the docking sight, they also have a sleep-out offering which comprises of a tented room on the river with a small fire pit. We wouldn't call this a Star Bed experience but more a tented room with the bathroom situated downstairs. The food was exceptional with lunch and dinner served buffet style and breakfast being continental breakfast followed by a plated hot breakfast of your choice. Overall, we really loved this camp with the amazing staff and variety of activities on offer.



